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ASML Netherlands B.V.

COMMUNICATION

The European Patent Office herewith transmits as an enclosure the European search report for the above-mentioned European patent application.

If applicable, copies of the documents cited in the European search report are attached.

☒ Additional set(s) of copies of the documents cited in the European search report is (are) enclosed as well.

The following specifications given by the applicant have been approved by the Search Division:

☒ abstract

☒ title

☐ The abstract was modified by the Search Division and the definitive text is attached to this communication.

The following figure will be published together with the abstract:

3A

REFUND OF THE SEARCH FEE

If applicable under Article 10 Rules relating to fees, a separate communication from the Receiving Section on the refund of the search fee will be sent later.





DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.7)
X	EP 0 866 374 A (NIPPON KOGAKU KK) 23 September 1998 (1998-09-23) * column 8, line 44 - column 9, line 2 * * column 16, line 41 - column 18, line 25; figure 4 * * column 23, line 29 - line 36 *	1,5,7-10	G03F7/20
X	US 2002/044269 A1 (FUKAGAWA YOZO ET AL) 18 April 2002 (2002-04-18) * abstract; figures 1,4 * * paragraph '0067! - paragraph '0071! * * paragraph '0095! * * paragraph '0109! - paragraph '0112! *	1,5,7-10	
X	US 2003/042920 A1 (KENMOKU HIROMI) 6 March 2003 (2003-03-06) * paragraph '0045! - paragraph '0052! *	1-3,5, 7-10	
X	EP 1 137 054 A (NIPPON KOGAKU KK) 26 September 2001 (2001-09-26) * paragraph '0054! - paragraph '0060! *	1,5,7-10	
A	EP 0 742 492 A (CANON KK) 13 November 1996 (1996-11-13) * page 4, line 19 - line 51; figure 1 * * page 8, line 53 - page 9, line 22 *	1-10	TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.7) G03F
A	PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 2002, no. 04, 4 August 2002 (2002-08-04) & JP 2001 351855 A (ASM LITHOGRAPHY BV), 21 December 2001 (2001-12-21) * abstract *	1-10	
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search Munich		Date of completion of the search 4 March 2004	Examiner van Toledo, W
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document			

**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
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This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report. The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on
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